

Statement of PPL Montana
Before the House Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee
Of the Montana House of Representatives
In Support of House Bill No. 338
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I'm Mark Lambrecht, Manager of Regulatory Affairs for PPL Montana — a wholesale generator of electricity in Montana with 1,200 megawatts of generating capacity from coal-fired and hydroelectric facilities located throughout Montana. We market our power through an affiliated energy trading operation in Butte, PPL EnergyPlus.

PPL Montana employs about 500 Montanans and supplies electricity to a variety of wholesale and retail customers in the state.

As we look to the future, we believe it is important to develop options for the continued use of Montana's coal resources in environmentally responsible ways. The coal resources we have can make Montana a vital component of a reliable and secure energy future for our communities here and the country.

PPL Montana is participating in a number of research and development efforts toward that end, including the Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Partnership and a carbon capture demonstration project at the Energy and Environment Research Center in North Dakota.

As Montanans, we take the issue of climate change seriously and recognize it has implications for all of us. For owners of fossil-fuel power plants, technology is an essential consideration. There simply is no retrofit technology commercially available for use today that can capture and remove carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants. That technology is still in the very early stages of research and development and faces many obstacles in its deployment, including the absence of legal rights to lay the necessary pipelines through properties owned by others.

PPL Montana supports House Bill 338. Assigning common carrier status to CO2 pipelines will help provide the necessary legal rights to install pipelines to carry these gases to areas where they can be sequestered. This will help lay the groundwork for an infrastructure that could support carbon dioxide reductions at some time in the future.

I encourage the members of the Committee to give this bill a "do pass" recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.